

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are pending, Claims 2-4 having been amended, Claim 1, canceled, and Claim 23 added by way of the present amendment. Claims 11-22 have been indicated as being allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 5-10 were indicated as being allowed.

In reply, Claim 1 has been canceled and new Claim 23 has been added. Support for new Claim 23 is found at least at page 4, lines 5-26, page 5, line 21 to page 8, line 10 and page 13, line 24 to page 17, line 4 in the present specification, and therefore no new matter is added.

It is believed new Claim 23 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Moreover, Claim 23 recites the structure of the optical fiber that is configured to exhibit the claimed performance characteristics. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that mutually agreeable claim language may be identified.

In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, and addition of new Claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 2-4 and 23, as amended, is

definite. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

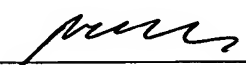
Respectfully submitted,

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